image

3

JOINES • KOTZ • RILEY • PRITCHETT

# Krampus!™

Previously in

# Krampus!

'Twas KRAMPUS! the second, the plot was in bloom
As forces conspired to bring about doom
At Belsnickel's locker the Krampus did meet
The marauding Nutcracker, who was not very suite.
Our hero was stabbed, the blade driven in
But Stutgaard's assistance helped to pull off a win.
With help from the Sântas, Hoteiosho, et al.
He followed a clue to the peaks of Nepal.
But poor Father Christmas had pains of his own
As discourse among other Sântas had grown
And gnarly old Sinterklaas made one plan or two
At Mos Cracium's suggestion to stage a big coup
Meanwhile the Krampus learned of the high cost
Of tangling with residents from Permafrost.
He met Old Man Winter, who cleared his good name
In relation to stealing St. Nicholas's remains.
"Go to Ibiza and bring my son back"
Said Winter of partying, runaway Jack.
So there went the Krampus, on matters most grave
Only to wind up smack-dab in a rave.
And the Sugarplum Fairies were still in the mix
As they hired Doc Holiday for a quick Krampus-fix.
He's alive?! How'd he get there? How'd this come to be?
For these answers and more, please start reading book three.


written by **BRIAN JOINES**

illustrated by **DEAN KOTZ**

colors by **RON RILEY**

letters by **CHARLES PRITCHETT**

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NNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZ
Ibiza.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?! IS ZIS SUPPOSED TO BE MUSIC?! HOW CAN ZIS BE MUSIC?!
AND WHY DOES EVERYTHING SMELL LIKE PATCHOULI?!
TZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNN

OH, WOW! THAT COSTUME IS AMAZING!
WHA--OH, YES, ZEE COSTUME! YES, WELL, JUST DRESSING UP FOR ZEE HIPSTER GOODTIME JAMBOREE.
SO, ZIS SNOW...
...WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
OH, THAT'S JACK. HE'S OVER THERE...
...MAKING FRIENDS AS USUAL.
GET IN CLOSER, LADIES. IT MAY BE HOT IN HERE, BUT I'M SO COLD INSIDE...
NTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZ
YOU HAVE MY ZANKS, YOUNG LADY.
YOU MAY NOW RETURN TO ZEE WRITHING AND ZEE GRINDING WITH ZEE OTHERS.
GUTEN TAG, JACK.
WHA-- OH, NO.
SPLURT
WE NEED TO TAL--
NTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZNNTZZ

KKSSSHHH
¡CUIDADO DONDE VAS!
SORRY! SORRY!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF

WELL, HELLO ZERE, JACK. WHAT A SURPRISE, RUNNING INTO YOU LIKE ZIS.
ALLOW ME TO BE OFFERING SOME ADVICE: WHEN FLEEING, IT IS BEST NOT TO LEAVE ZEE TRAIL OF SNOW-FLAKES TO FOLLOW...
GLLK--!
...PARTICULARLY WHEN YOUR PURSUER HAS A FLYING WOLF TO RISE ABOVE ZEE CROWDS.
WHUFF!
ZAT'S RIGHT, STUTGAARD, YOU ARE A GOOD BOY.
I AM ZEE KRAMPUS, HORROR OF ZEE HOLIDAY SEASON. I AM INVESTIGATING ZEE THEFT OF SAINT NICHOLAS'S BONES.
CLUES POINT TO A RESIDENT OF PERMAFROST.
ODDLY ENOUGH, YOUR FATHER AND HIS FLURRIES HAVE BEEN RULED OUT.
ZAT LEAVES YOU.
THEN YOU JUST FLEW YOUR WOLF A LONG WAY FOR NADA, GANGRENE. 'CAUSE I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT ANY BONES...
...AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Bari, Italy.

I AM AFRAID I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

POLIZIA LOCALE

TPOT 53

WHY WOULD A SIMPLE ***ARSON*** CASE ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF A MEMBER OF... OF...

I AM SORRY, ***WHICH*** AGENCY DID YOU SAY YOU WERE WITH, ***SIGNORE HOLIDAY?***

I RECKON I ***DIDN'T*** SAY, SALVATORE.

JUST THINK OF ME AS ONE OF THEM...WHAT DO YOU CALL 'EM?

***INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.***

I'M JUST OUT HERE DIGGING UP CLUES FOR A CASE I'M WORKING.

I DECLARE, THIS BOY DID LOVE HIS KNICK-KNACKS.

IN THAT CASE, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ***GO.*** WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY--

THAT'S OKAY, SAL. I AIN'T SEEING MUCH HERE THAT'LL DO ME ANY GOOD.

I'LL JUST--

I AM THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON.

I AM INCARNATE OF ALL THAT IS PURE IN THE KINGDOM OF THE YULETIDE.

AAHHH!

I'VE GRANTED YOU ETERNAL LIFE, DOCTOR HOLIDAY, SO YOU MAY CONTINUE AS ONE OF THE SEASON'S FAITHFUL.

WHAT?! YOU MADE SOME KINDA MISTAKE!

I'M A GUNFIGHTER! I AIN'T NEVER SERVED NO YULETIDE THING IN MY LIFE!

HOLLIDAY'S JUST MY NAME! WITH TWO "L"S!

SERIOUSLY?

SHIT.

WHAT IS IT? DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?

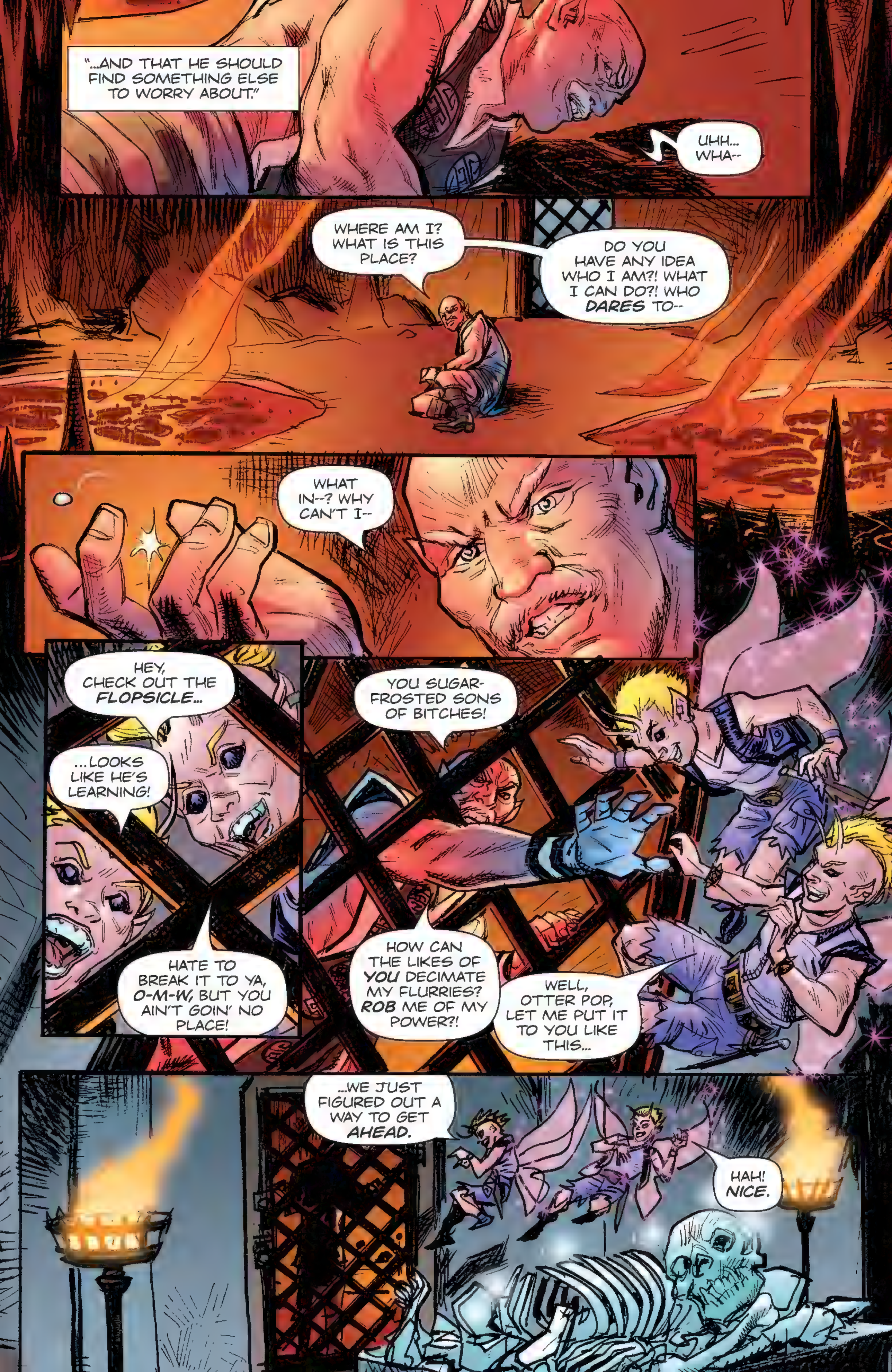
WHAT? NO, I WAS JUST...

HEH.

I WAS JUST FEELIN' A LITTLE HOMESICK, IS ALL.

YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING! YOU ARE ZEE ONLY ONE WHO IS LEFT!
IF IT WASN'T YOU, ZEN WHY WERE ZEE COORDINATES FOR PERMAFROST ON BELSNICKEL'S DISPLAY?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
WHEN WERE THE BONES STOLEN? A DAY AGO? A WEEK?
I'VE BEEN PARTYING NON-STOP FOR A MONTH-AND-A-HALF. ASK AROUND.
ZEN EVERYTHING... ALL ZAT I HAVE DONE... IT HAS BEEN SOME MADDENING GOOSE-CHASE?!
ZIS PAPER IS ZEE ONLY CLUE I HAVE LEFT! BUT I CANNOT READ IT... IT IS SOAKED WITH MY BLOOD.
ZEE SANTAS... ZEY WILL COME FOR ME. ZEY WILL LOCK ME AWAY, NEVER TO BE HEARD FROM AGAIN.
I HAVE FAILED.
DON'T BE TOO SURE. LET ME SEE THAT PAPER.
YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT I KNOW A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT BEING TRAPPED.
YOU MET MY DAD. HE GIVE YOU THE SPIEL ABOUT THE FAMILY BUSINESS? TAKING MY PLACE BESIDE HIM?
I'D LOVE TO GO HOME. BUT THE SECOND I SHOW UP, I'M PRETTY MUCH LOCKED INTO PLAYING "YOUNG MAN WINTER".

I'M JUST NOT READY.
WHAT IS IT YOU ARE DOING?
ONE OF THE PERKS OF BEING ME IS THAT I CAN WHIP UP A NICE COLD SHOWER. NOT THAT I NEED IT.
AND IF YOU KNOW HOW TO GET DOWN BETWEEN THE ATOMS...
HERE... SEE WHAT YOU CAN MAKE OF THAT.
IT LOOKS TO BE SOME KIND OF LEGAL DOCUMENT. ZERE SEEMS TO BE A NAME...
...MELINDA LEITNER OF MIAMI, FLORIDA.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, JACK. WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
WHY? BECAUSE THE SOCIETY OF SANTAS ARE A BUNCH OF ASSHOLES...
...AND I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF THEM LORDING OVER ANYBODY.
JUST DO ME A FAVOR: IF YOU SEE MY DAD, JUST TELL HIM I'D MOVED ON, BUT YOU HEARD I WAS DOING FINE.
HE'S GONNA BE ALL STRESSED, SO TELL HIM I'M GOOD, I'M HAVING FUN...


"...AND THAT HE SHOULD FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT."
UHH... WHA--
WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?! WHAT I CAN DO?! WHO DARES TO--
WHAT IN--? WHY CAN'T I--
HEY, CHECK OUT THE FLOPSICLE...
...LOOKS LIKE HE'S LEARNING!
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YA, O-M-W, BUT YOU AIN'T GOIN' NO PLACE!
YOU SUGAR-FROSTED SONS OF BITCHES!
HOW CAN THE LIKES OF YOU DECIMATE MY FLURRIES? ROB ME OF MY POWER?!
WELL, OTTER POP, LET ME PUT IT TO YOU LIKE THIS...
...WE JUST FIGURED OUT A WAY TO GET AHEAD.
HAH! NICE.

Miami, Florida
NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME, GORDON...
...I DON'T GIVE SHIT ONE ABOUT THEIR PIPES. THEY WANT TO BATHE? THEN THEY'D BETTER HAVE THEIR GOD-DAMN RENT!
NO, I AM NOT GOING TO COME DOWN THERE! WHY SHOULD I? PRETTY SURE THAT'S WHAT I HIRED YOU FOR.
DON'T CALL ME TO LET ME KNOW HOW IT TURNS OUT! I GET PAID OR I SAVE MONEY ON REPAIRS.
YOU'RE THE MANAGER, SO MANAGE!
GREAT, NOW THE MAID'S GETTING LAZY.
SO HELP ME, IF SHE CAN'T--
WAIT, WHAT--
OH MY GOD.
IT'S THE CHRISTMAS DEAL. BUT HOW--
YES, MISS LEITNER...

...HOW INDEED.

AHHH! HOLY SHIT!

OHMYGODOH MYGODOHMYGOD... I'M **DEAD**, AREN'T I? I'M DEAD AND I'M DAMNED AND YOU'RE HERE TO--

RELAX. EVEN IF I WANTED TO PUNISH YOU, I SADLY DO NOT HAVE ZEE LUXURY OF TIME.

BESIDES, I FIND YOUR CASUAL DISREGARD FOR HUMAN SUFFERING QUITE **ADMIRABLE**. ZEE MANNER IN WHICH YOU... WAIT.

ZAT **MARK**... IT LOOKS **FAMILIAR**. WHAT IS IT?

MY TATTOO? IT... IT WAS PART OF A DEAL I MADE. A CLIENT SENT ME THE DESIGN, TOLD ME I HAD TO GET IT.

THEY SAID IT WOULD PROTECT ME...

I SEE. AND ZIS CLIENT... DO YOU HAVE A NAME? A FACE HE OR SHE MAY BE LOOKING LIKE?

NO... IT WAS ALL VERY UNDER THE TABLE. NO NAME, NO ADDRESS, NO NOTHING.

IT WAS MY CHRISTMAS DEAL.

"THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO BUY THE MOST DESOLATE, OUT-OF-THE-WAY PROPERTY I COULD FIND."
"AFTER LOCATING A PLOT OF LAND, I RECEIVED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS: AT CHRISTMAS EVE, I LEFT THE DEED OUT ON THE COUNTER NEXT TO SOME MILK AND COOKIES..."
"...AND THE NEXT MORNING I FOUND FIVE MILLION DOLLARS."
ZAT STORY IS MEANINGLESS. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ZEE BUYER, WHAT ABOUT ZEE PROPERTY ITSELF?
I WARN YOU, LEAVE NOTHING TO MY IMAGINATION.
IT WAS NOTHING! JUST A PIECE OF SCRUB OUT IN THE SONORAN DESERT!
THEY WANTED SOMEPLACE THAT WAS GUARANTEED NOT TO HAVE A LOT OF FOOT TRAFFIC!
I CAN GIVE YOU THE EXACT LOCATION... I HAVE THE DOCUMENTS BACK IN THE HOUSE.
ZEN GO, QUICKLY! FOR ZEE SOONER I HAVE ZEM IN MY HANDS, ZEE SOONER I SHALL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE.
POWERFUL FORCES CONSPIRE ON EACH SIDE OF ME, LOOKING TO BE MY UNDOING. ZAT LOCATION MAY HOLD ZEE KEY TO IT ALL.
AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I HAVE AT STAKE.

The North Pole
LOOK AT IT, HOTEIOSHO. CENTURIES IN THE MAKING, THIS PLACE STANDS AS A TRIBUTE TO ALL THAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT WITH CHILDREN THE WORLD OVER.
AND NOW IT WILL SERVE AS OUR TOMB.
YOU MUST NOT THINK LIKE THIS, FATHER CHRISTMAS!
WE HAVE AMPLE FUEL AND OUR LARDER IS WELL-STOCKED, EVEN TAKING KRINGLE INTO ACCOUNT.
AND YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP ON THE KRAMPUS.
BUT CAN WE TRUST HIM?
NO, BUT HE'S NO FOOL... HE HAS A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION.
HE KNOWS IF HE WANTS TO BE FREE OF THE NAUGHTY BOMB, HE HAS TO--
FATHER CHRISTMAS?
YES, DUN CHE LAO REN?
FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION, BUT THE ELVES HAVE MANAGED TO CHEW THROUGH SOME OF THE POWER CABLES.
THE SOUTHERN GRID HAS GONE DARK.
OF COURSE IT HAS.
THE TWO OF YOU SEE IF YOU CAN RESTORE POWER. TAKE AGIOS VASSILIS AND BABA CHAGHALOO WITH YOU.
IN THE MEANTIME, I SHALL--
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, CHRISTMAS...

...EXCEPT ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR INCOHERENT RAMBLINGS. THERE IS A SITUATION THAT--
THEN FIND THE TIME!
THE ONLY SITUATION CONCERNING YOU INVOLVES YOUR RELEASE OF THE GREATEST THREAT THIS SOCIETY HAS KNOWN!
WHO KNOWS THE ATROCITIES HE'S COMMITTING, ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR RIGHTEOUS ARROGANCE?
WEIHNACHTSMANN?
FATHER CHRISTMAS...
...IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR BY-LAWS, SINTERKLAAS CHALLENGES YOUR POSITION AS LEADER OF THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES. DO WE HAVE A SECOND?
I SECOND.
YOU DAMNABLE OLD FOOL! WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, NOW YOU PULL THIS?
A CRISIS OF THIS DEGREE REQUIRES A COMPETENT LEADER...
...NOT ONE WHO USES DRIED KINDLING TO SQUELCH A FIRE.
THE SANTAS WILL BE GATHERING IN THE GREAT HALL. I DO HOPE YOU'LL ATTEND, CHRISTMAS. AFTER ALL...
...EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

BRING IT DOWN, STUTGAARD...
...ZIS IS ZEE PLACE.
LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING BESIDES ZEE SAND AND ZEE CACTI AND ZEE GILA MONSTERS...
AFTER ALL, WHY GO THROUGH ZEE TROUBLE OF A SECRET PURCHASE IF ZERE IS NOTHING TO BE...
STUTGA
...HIDDEN.
ZAT SYMBOL AGAIN.
WHAT IS IT?! I KNOW I HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE!
ZEE SLUMLORD LADY SAID SHE WAS TO BE NEEDING IT FOR HER PROTECTION.
ZEE QUESTION IS...
...PROTECTION FROM WHAT?

KABLAM

AAAGGGH!

WHA-- NOW ZEY ARE SHOOTING AT ME? WITH *GUNS?!*

ZERE IS *NO* ROMANCE LEFT IN ZEE PUNISHMENT BUSINESS.

*KRAMPUS!*

MY NAME IS DOC HOLIDAY AND THAT WAS YOUR ONLY *WARNING SHOT!*

I'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH BRINGING YOU IN, DEAD OR ALIVE.

A MOST CONSIDERATE OFFER, COMING FROM ZEE MAN WHO JUST SHOT ME *FROM BEHIND.*

I BELIEVE I ENJOYED ZEE *VAL KILMER* VERSION OF YOU MUCH MORE!

I WAS ALWAYS PARTIAL TO *KIRK DOUGLAS* MYSELF.

NOW HOWABOUTS YOU COME OUT FROM BEHIND THAT CACTUS AND WE HAVE OURSELVES A *CONVERSATION?*

DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK, MY EMPLOYER DOESN'T WANT YOU DEAD...

I'D JUST AS SOON NOT PUT YOU DOWN, BUT IF IT COMES TO THAT...

WELL, IT'S YOUR CALL, HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY THIS!

...HE JUST WANTS A WORD.

REALLY? ZEN HERE ARE *TWO:*

STUTGAARD! *ATTACK!*

YEAH, I THINK YOUR WOLF PAL'S A BIT TOO MUCH OCCUPADO RIGHT NOW TO BE HELPING YOU OUT.
HISSSSS
GRRR...
MARI LWYD?!
SO IT WAS YOU WHO FINALLY TAMED ZEE GRAY MARE OF WALES. I WILL ADMIT... I AM IMPRESSED.
SO IMPRESSED, IN FACT...
...ZAT I GIVE YOU ZEE HONOR OF HAVING IT BE MY HAND ZAT KILLS YOU A SECOND TIME!
Y'ALL JUST KEEP FLAPPIN' YOUR JAW LIKE THAT, KRAMPUS...
...I'VE ALWAYS FOUND THAT THE LOUDEST TARGETS ARE THE EASIEST TO HIT.
ZEN YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM KILLING ME, HERR DOCTOR...
...UNLESS AN OPPONENT FACING YOU LEAVES YOU ALL AFLUTTER.
MY HAND LOOKS MIGHTY STEADY.
SPARE ME. ZEE ONLY BLOOD YOU ARE TO BE SPILLING TODAY...

...IS WHATEVER YOU COUGH UP INTO YOUR HANDKERCHIEF.
I HAVE HEARD YOUR STORY... ZEE GREAT WESTERN HERO, BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE VIA A COSMIC CLERICAL ERROR.
DO YOU ZINK ZAT GIVES YOU LICENSE TO MOVE IN OUR WORLD? TO STAND ALONGSIDE ZEE CUPIDS AND ZEE LEPRECHAUNS?
TO STAND ALONGSIDE ME?!
ZEE SPIRIT OF ZEE SEASON IS A LUMINESCENT AUTOGRAPH HOUND AND YOU HIS GREATEST PUNCHLINE.
YOU MAY TAKE ZAT KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR GRAVE, HUMAN.

MAYBE YOU HEARD SOME OF THE STORIES, BUT I GUARANTEE YOU AIN'T HEARD THEM *ALL*.

BECAUSE BELIEVE YOU ME...

...I'M A MITE BIT MORE THAN HUMAN.

*AAIIGH!*

KRK KRK KRK

KURRRR

*UHHFF!*

*OW.* REALLY, IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR--

WAIT.

*AGAIN* WITH ZEE FALLING AND ZEE CRASHING AND ZEE--

IS ZAT... IS ZAT A...

SANTAS! YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED HERE TODAY TO DECIDE ON THE FUTURE OF THIS HALLOWED SOCIETY!
THE LEADERSHIP OF FATHER CHRISTMAS HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY SINTERKLAAS.
THE FIRST SANTA, DON'T FORGET.
FATHER CHRISTMAS IS CHARGED WITH NEGLIGENCE, ABUSE OF POWER, AND BEHAVIOR UNBECOMING SOCIETY LEADER, STEMMING FROM THE KRAMPUS'S RELEASE.
AS STATED IN OUR CHARTER, WE WILL RESOLVE THIS ISSUE WITH A VOTE.
I WILL READ OFF EACH NAME AND YOU WILL RESPOND WITH A RAISED HAND FOR THE LEADER OF YOUR CHOICE.
THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO RESPECT YOUR ELDERS, CHRISTMAS. IF YOU HADN'T RELEASED THAT MONSTER--
IN THE EVENT OF A TIE I, AS THE SOCIETY'S ADJUDICATOR, WILL CAST THE DECIDING VOTE.
A MONSTER YOU BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD...BECAUSE YOU WERE OVERWHELMED BY CHILDREN.
A QUALITY IN THE FINEST OF LEADERS, I'M SURE.
IS EVERYTHING UNDERSTOOD? GOOD.
LET US BEGIN...

WHO VOTES FOR FATHER CHRISTMAS TO RETAIN HIS POSITION?
AND WHO VOTES FOR SINTERKLAAS AS NEW LEADER OF THE SOCIETY?
THE VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED. THE LEADER OF THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES IS--
CHRISTMAS!
LOOK! EVEN NOW HE CONSPIRES WITH THE CREATURE! THIS PROVES MY POINT!
ENOUGH, SINTERKLAAS!
KRAMPUS? WHAT IS IT?
WHAT HAVE YOU--
SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO ME! I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TIME!
ZEE TRAITOR... ZEE SOCIETY'S BETRAYER... I KNOW WHO IT IS!
MOS CRACIUN...

ZEE TRAITOR IS MOS CRACIUN!
TO BE CONTINUED...

**Happy New Year and welcome to the third issue of KRAMPUS!** *We're midway through our first storyline now and, as you can see, we're starting to see some answers to the mystery even as more questions are popping up. What does the last page reveal mean for the Krampus and the Secret Society of Santa Clauses? Who is actually behind it all? We're just getting started on the grand reveals, which continue in issue 4.*

*Meanwhile, at the time of this writing, issue two is a few days away from hitting the shelves so, needless to say, we haven't received any letters from readers about it yet (because let's face it…if we had, it'd be a little freaky). So instead we'll look at a couple more letters we received regarding issue 1 and call it a quick column.*

***Dear Krampus,***

***Just two things:***

***1 a list of names from the hall of enemies will be nice***

***2 no mexican-latin santa? c-mon people you have a russian santa why you dont touch the sombrero? the most of that countries have balistic ho-hos and the latin only have a bunch of machetes....***

***anyway happy new yar (like "year" from pirates)***

***Chucho Zandon***

*Hi Chucho,*
*We'll tackle this one at a time:*

*1) In the Hall of Enemies, so far we've seen portraits for the Krampus (duh), Mos Gerila, a former Santa, and the Mouse King from the Nutcracker. We'll learn of a couple more next issue but, to touch on one or two more that won't be mentioned, there are portraits for Frau Perchta, an elderly holiday witch, and the Namahage, a distant cousin of the Krampus hailing from Japan.*

*2) As I mentioned in the letter column for issue 2, the various Santas cover more territory than just their home origin. Since most Latin countries refer to their Santa as Papa Noel, Spain's representative covers most Latin countries. That said, I think you may be happy with the end results of issue 5.*

*Thanks for reading!*

***I love how you guys took the idea of having every nations version of Santa Claus as a Society, secondly, you've made me very interested in learning more about Krampus! I kid you not, I told my little brother, because he was being naughty xD, about Krampus and scared the crap out of him and he acted nice the rest of December, I didn't tell him the full details of what Krampus does, I didn't want to scar him for life lol! Anyways, can't wait to read issue 2!***

***Joey "Lobo" Corral***

*Thanks, Lobo!*

*Part of the fun of putting this book together was trying to figure out all of the various*

*Santas out there, which ones to use or not use, and then watching Dean knock out these fantastic designs that show them as both similar and individual. And as I mentioned to Chucho, we might not be done yet.*

*That's a great story about your little brother. I really hope that the increased awareness of Krampus this past holiday season means parents will start to incorporate his legend as a tool when dealing with their children. I'd love to see the day when misbehaving kids go suddenly silent when threatened by a visit by the Krampus.*

*That's it for the letters at this point. We'll wrap it up after one final item: two days ago, Russell Johnson, the actor who played the Professor on Gilligan's Island, passed away. It may seem odd to talk about an actor passing in a comic letter column rather than, say, a writer whose work you admired (such as Elmore Leonard) , but I have a few relevant connections to Mr. Johnson. I was very much a child of the 70s, raised on reruns from the previous decade, and one that I always gravitated towards as a kid was Gilligan. When I went to college, I studied theater, and when I left I did what most theater majors do…work a lousy job while trying to land a part. I did a few plays here and there, and eventually I was cast as the Professor in a musical adaptation of Gilligan's Island (I had more hair then, honest).*

*What I didn't realize at the time was that this was a show being workshopped… in other words, there was no script. We just had the general idea and we had to build the show from the ground up. I wound up being one of the people doing the majority of the writing of the script, bringing together jokes and ideas the actors came up with and hammering them into a cohesive form. This was the first semi-professional writing I'd ever done and hearing people respond to what I'd written, to my ideas, is what made me want to move away from being an actor and towards being a writer. Later, when I got into comics and self-published my first series, a black-and-white superhero satire called The 7 Guys of Justice, I named one of the characters (a talking scientist monkey) Russell Hinkley, after both the actor who played the Professor and that character's real name (Roy Hinkley, for all you trivia buffs). Appropriately enough, that is the character most friends felt truly represented my personality.*

*I had the chance to meet Mr. Johnson a couple years later at a convention and when I mentioned both the musical and the monkey to him, he thought it was hilarious. I've read articles where Mr. Johnson admitted to feeling the role of the Professor had hurt his career, but the person before me had no bitterness, no anger about it; he was just happy to still be recognized and thought of, fondly, nearly forty years after the show had concluded. I don't normally do the autograph thing but I did here, and he signed a picture of his Gilligan character "From One Professor to Another." It may have been his standard signature, I don't know…all I know is that I still have that hanging on the wall of Stately Joines Manor.*

*Rest in Peace, Professor.*

*And that's it for this month! Hope to see you all back here next month. In the meantime, send your commentary, compliments, or criticisms to us at krampusletters@gmail.com.*

***Thanks for reading and the support, everyone! Spread the word if you like the book and we'll see you in a few!***

*Brian Joines*
*Portland, OR*
*1/18/14*

# GET IN ON THE START OF SOMETHING MASSIVE!

MARK MILLAR GORAN PARLOV

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# HOLD BREATH

ORLANDO • TRAKHANOV • MAUER

# UNDERTOW™

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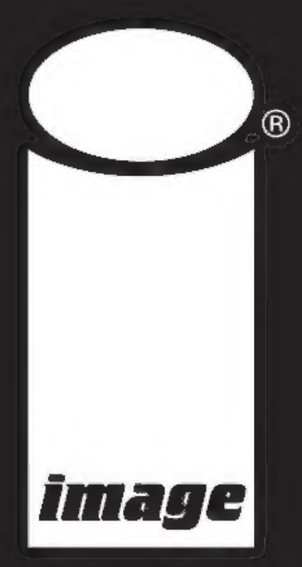
# BRYAN HITCH

# REAL™ HEROES

## 2014



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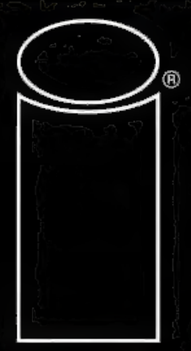

IS FOR INSANITY

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# USER'S GUIDE TO THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES

1. Father Christmas.....United Kingdom
2. Weihnachtsmann.....Germany
3. Hoteiosho.....Japan
4. Sinterklaas.....Netherlands
5. Agios Vassilis.....Greece
6. Baba Chaghaloo .....Afghanistan
7. Mos Craciun.....Romania
8. Ded Moroz.....Russia
9. Kaghand Papik.....Armenia
10. Kris Kringle.....United States
11. Dun Che Lao Ren.....China
12. Papa Noel.....Spain
13. Vader Kersfees.....Iraq
14. Joulupukki.....Finland
15. Daidi Na Nollaig .....Ireland
16. Pere Noel.....France
17. Karacsony Apo.....Hungary
18. Kanakaloka.....Pacific Islands
19. Babbo Natale.....Italy

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